

Serial No.: 10/720,303
Group Art Unit: 2683
Examiner: Danh C. Le

In the Claims

1 (Currently Amended). In a communication system having a TDM (time division multiplexed) network through which communications are routable to a user positioned to communicate selectably by way of a selected one of a first communication station and at least a second communication station, an improvement of apparatus for facilitating routing of the communications by way of a telephonic call router, which comprises a TDM switch embodied at the TDM network, to the selected one of the first and at least second communication stations, respectively, said apparatus comprising:

a positioner adapted to receive indications of a location at which the user is positioned, the indications provided to said positioner free of user action, said positioner for automatically identifying at least relative to the first and at least second communication stations, positioning of the user;

a call routing instructor coupled to said positioner, said call routing instructor for instructing the telephonic call router to which of the first and at least second communication stations to route the call, instructions generated by said call routing instructor responsive to identification of the positioning of the user made by said positioner, wherein the instructions generated by said call routing instructor are provided to the TDM switch.

2 (Canceled).

3 (Original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the user carries a position indicator, the position indicator generating positional indicia, indications of which form the indications that are provided to said positioner.

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4 (Original). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the position indicator carried by the user comprises a GPS (global positioning system) device, and wherein the positional indicia generated thereat is provided to said positioner.

5 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the first communication station comprises a mobile station operable in a cellular radio communication system and wherein the GPS device is embodied at the mobile station and forms a portion thereof.

6 (Original). The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the mobile station comprises a cellular-system radio transceiver and wherein the positional indicia generated by the GPS device is provided to said positioner by way of the cellular-system radio transceiver.

7 (Original). The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the network of the communication system comprises a cellular network portion, wherein the network further comprises a positioning server coupled to the cellular network portion, and wherein at least a portion of said positioner is embodied at the positioning server.

8 (Original). The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the network further comprises a location server coupled to the positioning server, and wherein at least another portion of said positioner is embodied at the location server.

9 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said positioner further comprises a location database that contains database entries representative of the positioning of the user, the location database maintained at said portion of said positioner embodied at the location server.

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10 (Original). The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the location database of said positioner embodied at the location server is updateable, and wherein said portion of said positioner embodied at the positioning server selectably causes updating of the database entries of the location database.

11 (Original). The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said portion of said positioner embodied at the positioning server causes updating of the database entries when the positioning of the user changes greater than a selected amount.

12 (Original). The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the network of the communication system further comprises an application server coupled to both the location server and to the telephonic call router, and wherein said call routing instructor is embodied at the application server.

13 (Original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises a positioning server and wherein at least a portion of said positioner is embodied at the positioning server.

14 (Original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network of the communication system comprises an application server, the application server coupled to the telephonic call router, and wherein said call routing instructor is embodied at the application server.

15 (Original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the selected one of the first and at least second communication stations to which said call routing instructor instructs the telephonic call router to route the communications is within a selected range of the positioning of the user.

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16 (Currently Amended). In a method of communicating in a communication system having a TDM (time division multiplexed) network through which communications are routable to a user positioned to communicate selectably by way of a selected one of a first communication station and at least a second communication station, an improvement of a method for facilitating routing of the communications by way of a telephonic call router, which comprises a TDM switch embodied at the TDM network, to the selected one of the first and at least second communication stations, respectively, said method comprising:

automatically identifying at least relative to the first and at least second communication stations, positioning of the user; and

instructing the TDM switch, responsive to identifications made during said operation of automatically identifying the telephonic call router to which of the first and at least second communication stations to which to route the communications.

17 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 16 further comprising the operation, prior to said operation of automatically identifying, of providing positional indicia associated with a location at which the user is positioned, and wherein identifications made during said operation of automatically identifying are made responsive to values of the positional indicia provided during said operation of providing.

18 (Original). The method of claim 17 wherein the positional indicia provided during said operation of providing is formed by a GPS (global positioning system) device carried by the user.

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19 (Original). The method of claim 18 wherein the first communication station comprises a mobile station operable in a cellular communication system and wherein the GPS device that forms the positional indicia is embodied at the mobile station.

20 (Original). The method of claim 15 further comprising the operation of maintaining a location database that contains database entries, the database entries representative of the positioning of the user, database entries used during said operation of instructing to identify to which of the first and at least second communication stations to which to route the communications.